

Message Text

SECRET

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14

ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 SNM-02 DODE-00 CIAE-00 NSCE-00

NSC-05 MC-02 ACDA-05 PA-01 PRS-01 INR-05 OMB-01 EB-03

IO-03 IGA-01 L-01 /051 W

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R 030514Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 229

S E C R E T RANGOON 2498

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR BM

SUBJ: NARCOTICS CONTROL PROGRAM: M-60 MACHINE GUNS

1. WE HAVE FOR SOME TIME BEEN ATTEMPTING TO CONFIRM ORIGIN OF 12 SETS (24 WEAPONS) OF U.S. MANUFACTURED M-60 MACHINE GUNS WHICH HAVE BEEN SEEN BY US TECHREPS WORKING WITH US SUPPLIED BELL 205 HELICOPTERS AND WHICH BURMESE OFFICERS HINTED CAME FROM USG. (SEE DAO IR 6312005474 OF 8/21/75 AND SCOTT/BOLES MEMCON OF 7/25/75 SENT EA/TB AND S/NM). IN MEETING SEPTEMBER 1 WITH COL. MAUNG MAUNG, DEPUTY TO VICE CHIEF OF STAFF ARMY, AND OTHERS CONCERNING SECOND NARCOTICS PACKAGE (RANGOON 2491), EMBOFFS ASKED DIRECTLY ABOUT ORIGIN OF M-60'S. BURMESE STATED FLATLY THAT M-60'S WERE OFFLOADED FROM THE AIR ALASKA AIRCRAFT IN RANGOON AND WERE SUPPLIED BY THE USG; MAUNG MAUNG RECALLED THAT THEY WERE AMONG THE LAST CRATES REMOVED FROM THE AIRCRAFT. THE BURMESE WERE SURPRISED BUT PLEASSED TO FIND THE UNEXPECTED WEAPONS.

2. NEEDLESS TO SAY, WE ARE AT A LOSS TO EXPLAIN THEIR PRESENCE. HELICOPTERS WERE INTENDED TO BE DELIVERED UNARMED AS DEPARTMENT PRESS SPOKESMAN CONFIRMED PUBLICLY AT TIME INITIAL AGREEMENT FOR FIRST SIX HELICOPTERS ANNOUNCED JULY 2, 1974. WE HAVE REVIEWED ALL PROCUREMENT DOCUMENTATION AVAILABLE TO US AND FIND NO REPEAT NO RECORD OF OR EVEN MENTION OF M-60'S. THE ONLY EVEN VAGUELY

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PLAUSIBLE EXPLANATION IS THAT WHEN THE M-23 GUN MOUNT ASSEMBLIES

WERE PROCURED BY AID FROM THE NAVAL AVIATIONS SYSTEMS COMMAND,
THE GUNS WERE INADVERTENTLY INCLUDED AS PART OF THE PACKAGE.

3. WE WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S COMMENTS AND INSTRUCTIONS.
ALSO THIS ISSUE UNDERSCORES THE IMPORTANCE OF RECEIVING CARGO
MANIFEST OF FORTHCOMING DELIVERY WHICH WAS NOT SENT FOR FIRST
SHIPMENT (RANGOON 2477).
HOWARTH

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
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Concepts: MACHINE GUNS, DRUG CONTROL, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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